Cancun Meeting of WTO

*9. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cancun meet failed to persuade the developed nations to reduce subsidies on their farmers and cut the import tariffs on various articles including textiles;

(b) if so, whether this stand of the developed nations adversely affects the trade and agricultural interests of the developing countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have taken appropriate measures to safeguard the interest of its trade and indigenous agricultural sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) The Cancum Conference concluded without taking a decision on various important issues, including on Frameworks for negotiations in agriculture and non-agricultural market access and launch of negotiations of Singapore Issues.

(b) and (c) Substantial reduction in trade distorting domestic support and elimination of export subsidies in agriculture and reduction in import duties on various articles including textiles and clothing as well as removal of non-trafff barries by the developed countries would enable developing countries to secure greater market access. India's aim in these negotiations is to secure maximum commitments from the developed countries in each of these areas.

(d) and (e) India has been actively participating in the negotiations on various issues included in the Doha Work Programme. In so far as negotiations on agriculture are concerned, India's position has been that further commitments on market access by developing countries are contingent upon substantial reduction in all trade distorting domestic support and elimination of all forms of export subsidies. Moreover, any market access commitments by developing countries should fully take into account their economic and social conditions; development needs, food and livelihood security and rural development requirements. Special

and differential treatment for developing countries shall be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations in agriculture.

In respect of non-agricultural products, India has strongly advocated increased market access for products of export interest to developing countries such as textiles and clothing, leather goods, etc. through reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers and elimination of tariff peaks and tariff escalations by the developed countries.

India has also stressed the need for providing 'less than full reciprocity' in the matter of reduction commitments for developing countries.

India has successfully built coalitions with other developing countries to put forward its proposals more efffectively. These include G-20 consisting of Brazil, Argentina, China, South Africa, etc. for agriculture, group of like minded countries, G-16 for Singapore issues with Malaysia, China, Egypt etc. India is also actively engaged in negotiations with important developed countries and other developing country groupings such as G-90 consisting of LDC group, African Union and ACP countries.

Government have put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items and are committed to provide adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within the bound tariffs, anti-dumping and safeguard actions as well as imposition of countervailing duties under specified circumstances as prvided in various WTO agreements.

Marine products export to EU

*10. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the European Union (EU) as a good and growing market for Indian marine products;

(b) if so, the marine products export made to the E.U. in 2003-04;

(c) the targets for 2004-05 for marine products export to the E.U.;

(d) whether any incentives have been offered to the new exporters; and